Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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R 170615Z JAN 76 FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3448 INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN

AMEMBASSY KABUL

SUBJECT: CHAVAN SEES LITTLE PROSPECT FOR RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN SOON

1. REPLYING TO A LOK SABHA QUESTION JANUARY 16 ON WHEN NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN MIGHT OCCUR, FONMIN CHAVAN SAID, "I DO NOT THINK WE HAVE REACHED THAT STAGE." CHAVAN SAID THAT IMPLE-MENTATION OF THE SIMLA AGREEMENT HAD BEEN SLOW. INDIA HAD BEEN FULLY IMPLEMENTING THE AGREEMENTS SIGNED IN 1974-75 BUT PAKI-STAN'S STANCE IN RECENT MONTHS HAD "VITIATED THE ATMOSPHERE." PAKISTAN WAS TAKING A "HALTING ATTITUDE" AND WAS ASSUMING ANTI-INDIA POSTURES. THIS HAD BEEN TAKEN UP OFFICIALY WITH THE GOP. CHAVAN SAID. CHAVAN ADDED THAT THERE WERE NO DIFFERENCES BE-TWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ON AJOR ISSUES PERTAINING TO SIMLA, BUT PAKISTAN'S POLITICAL ATTITUDE AND INDIFFERENCE HAD COME IN THE WAY. REFERRING TO THE TRADE AGREEMENT, HE SAID THIS "WAS A SMALL BEGINNING." "INDIA CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN A POSITIVE APPROACH TO THE IDEA OF DEVELOPING NORMAL RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN SO THAT THE PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING DURABLE PEACE IN THE SUBCONTINENT IS EXPEDITED," CHAVAN SAID.

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2. COMMENT: CHAVAN'S PUBLIC REMARKS ECHO WHAT WE HAVE REPORTED

EARLIER FROM PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS HERE. SAXBE	
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